

Gay couples receive long-awaited marriage licenses in Massachusetts

Impact will ripple across country

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. • City clerks began handing out marriage-license applications to gay couples just after midnight today, making Massachusetts the first state in the nation to legalize same-sex unions and the United States one of just four countries in the world where homosexuals can legally wed.

Inside: Older gay couples face hurdles over lack of benefit protections. **Page 8**

The first couple to begin filling out the paperwork was Marcia Hams, 56, and her partner, Susan Shepherd, 52, of Cambridge. They showed up at midnight Saturday — a full 24 hours ahead of time — to

stake out the first spot in line where the city clerk was to hand out the nation's first state-sanctioned gay marriage applications.

SEE GAY MARRIAGE • PAGE 8



RELIEF: Sonia Hendrickson, left, and Baxter Brooke chat Sunday while waiting at Cambridge City Hall for a marriage license application. The two hope to be married in June.

BACK AND FORTH

To marry

today: Couples without licenses planning to marry today in Massachusetts must submit applications, then hurry to a court to pay a fee to waive the required three-day waiting period before picking up licenses.

Out-of-staters:

• Invoking a 1913 statute, Republican Gov. Mitt Romney said same-sex couples who live in other states are ineligible to marry in Massachusetts because they cannot legally marry in their states.

• Calling that interpretation discriminatory, officials in Provincetown voted to marry out-of-state couples; clerks in Worcester and Somerville indicated they will do the same.

THE WASHINGTON POST

GETTING IN LINE: Moira Barrett, front left, and Johanna Schulman, front right, join friends Sunday for dinner

on the steps of Cambridge City Hall. They have been a couple for 16 years and want to have a wedding Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PEOPLE

'Raymond' returning for ninth season

Three days before announcing its fall schedule, CBS sealed a deal Sunday to bring the Emmy-winning comedy "Everybody Loves Raymond" back for a ninth and final season.

Producer and star Ray Romano agreed to a shortened season of 16 new episodes. Most television shows make about 22 episodes a year. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

"I look forward to being a hapless, sexless husband again in year nine," Romano said.

The Monday night comedy featuring Romano and his dysfunctional family won the 2003 Emmy for best comedy.

With "Friends," "Frazier" and "Sex and the City" calling it quits this season, the deal gives "Everybody Loves Raymond" a victory lap where it won't be overshadowed by other comedies. "Raymond" will be the highest-rated returning sitcom, a program genre in need of a transfusion of talent.

Busy lines keep 'Idol' voters away

Many would-be "American Idol" voters are disenfranchised by overburdened phone lines and by "power dialers" who hog the system, the magazine Broadcasting & Cable reported.

According to the magazine's issue being released today, "the only people choosing the next 'American Idol' are the ones lucky enough to get through — or skilled enough to get around — tremendously overtaxed phone lines."

Fox TV, which airs the talent contest, has not addressed the difficulties viewers must overcome to log votes, the magazine said.

The show is a ratings winner and valuable property for its producers and Fox, but Broadcasting & Cable said the network is alienating viewers who repeatedly get a busy signal when they try to call in votes.

NEWS SERVICES

LOCAL EVENTS

Today

● **"FREE FITNESS DAY":** 24 Hour Fitness. Open for free workouts. Visit www.24hourfitness.com for locations and times.

● **"SENIOR CHAT":** 10:30-11:30 a.m., Cheyenne Mountain Branch Library, 1791-D S. Eighth St. Informal gathering for seniors offers information sharing, networking, discussions and tea or coffee, 633-6278.

● **CRIPPLE CREEK-VICTOR DISTRICT RE-1 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING:** 6:30 p.m., 410 N. B St., Cripple Creek.

● **"TALK SPANISH":** 7 to 8:30 p.m., East Library and Information Center, 5550 N. Union Blvd. For intermediate and advanced adult Spanish language learners, 531-6333.

Tuesday

● **"JAVA AND DATABASES" SPEAKER PRESENTATION:** 6 to 8:30 p.m., East Library and Information Center, 5550 N. Union Blvd. Hosted by the Pikes Peak Java Developers, free, Chris Smith, 473-0826.

● **HANOVER DISTRICT 28 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING:** 6 p.m., 17050 S. Peyton Highway.

● **FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL OF SOUTHERN COLORADO MEETING:** 6:30 p.m., Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock Ave. To bring people of the world together through home-stay exchanges — creating unforgettable opportunities for travel that builds lasting bonds of friendship, Joanne Ruth, 599-4056.

MAY 29

FREE YOGA CLASS: 9-10 a.m., The Studio, 3020 W. Colorado Ave. Reservations required, 761-7498.

JUNE 8

ANNUAL CHARLIE CLOSSON MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT: 7-7:45 a.m. registration, 8 a.m. shotgun start, Pine Creek Golf Club, 9850 Divot Trail. Sponsored by the North Colorado Springs Rotary

Club. Includes lunch, awards presentation, live auction and chances to win prizes. Proceeds to benefit Ronald McDonald Children's Charities of Southern Colorado and other youth-related projects in the Colorado Springs area. Cost to play is \$125 per person through June 1, and \$145 thereafter. Sponsorship opportunities also available. Registration, Rex Schultz, 635-2687.

PLAN AHEAD

75 MILES OR LESS

WEDNESDAY

ARTS A LA CARTE - "TELL A STORY WITH A PICTURE": 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m., The Children's Museum of Denver, 2121 Children's Museum Drive. Free with admission, 1-303-433-7444.

"PINECONE TURKEYS": 1:30 p.m., The Children's Museum of Denver, 2121 Children's Museum Drive. Free with admission, 1-303-433-7444.

CLUBHOUSE CAPERS - "ERIC CARLE PAINTINGS": 2:30 p.m., The Children's Museum of Denver, 2121 Children's Museum Drive. Free with admission, 1-303-433-7444.

THURSDAY

TODDLER TIME - "MAGIC PHONIC PHONES": 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m., The Children's Museum of Denver, 2121 Children's Museum Drive. Free with admission, 1-303-433-7444.

MAY 25

"SOCRATES CAFÉ": 1-3 p.m., Monument Library Branch, 1706 Lake Woodmoor Drive. Discussion group for adults that focuses on a deeper look into philosophy, religions, spirituality and the common threads among humanity, Monument, 488-2370.

MAY 28

"VILCABAMBA: THE FINAL CAPITAL OF THE INCA EMPIRE": 7 p.m., Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd. Cost is \$10 for members, \$13 for nonmembers, \$8 for students. Reservations required, 1-800-925-2250.

● **PEYTON DISTRICT 23JT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING:** 7 p.m., Peyton Elementary School, 13550 Bradshaw Road, Peyton.

● **CALHAN DISTRICT RJ-1 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING:** 8 p.m., administration office, 780 Eighth St., Calhan.

● **READING BUDDIES PLUS:**

3:30-5 p.m., Cheyenne Mountain Branch Library, 1791-D S. Eighth St. and 6:30-8 p.m., East Library and Information Center, 5550 N. Union Blvd. Trained volunteers will help students in grades K-5 with reading, math, social studies, etc., 531-6333, ext. 1407.

TO SUBMIT ITEMS: Fax 636-0202; e-mail listings@gazette.com • FOR INFORMATION: 636-0221

Other calendars

Sunday Sports: Community events calendar.
Sunday Business: Upcoming business events.
Monday Life: Support groups and health screenings, first Monday of the month.
Wednesday Food: What's Cooking.
Friday Out There: Almanac.

Friday Go! Guide to arts and entertainment.
Saturday Life: Calendar of religious events. List of items of interest to pet owners.

SUBMIT ITEMS: Information for these calendars is included at the end of each calendar.

The Gazette

Volume 133 • Number 55

Reach us

CUSTOMER SERVICE 1-866-394-8844 (toll free)
GENERAL INFORMATION 632-5511
Tom Mullen, President & Publisher 636-0201

Departments

Newsroom 636-0266
fax 636-0202
Sports 636-0250

Newspaper delivery questions: 1-866-394-8844 (toll free)
If you did not receive a paper, we will deliver one to you 6-10 a.m. Monday through Saturday, 7-11 a.m. Sunday. If you call after delivery hours, you will receive credit or the paper the next day.

Today in COLORADO

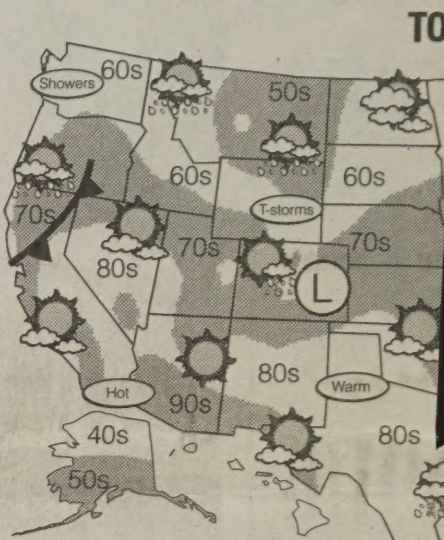
City	Hi	Lo	Wx	City
Akron	73	49	mc	Fort Collins
Alamosa	75	33	pc	Fraser
Aspen	64	40	pc	Glenwood Springs
Boulder	71	46	pc	Grand Lake
Breckenridge	57	30	pc	Grand Junction
Buena Vista	69	38	pc	Greeley
Burlington	75	50	pc	Gunnison
Cortez	82	47	pc	Hayden
Craig	70	38	mc	La Junta
Denver	70	48	pc	Lamar
Durango	76	38	pc	Leadville
Eagle	72	40	pc	Limon

Sunday's statewide extremes

Sunday's high and low in CO

Sunday's precipitation in Colorado Springs

Normal precipitation in Colorado



Across the USA

City	TODAY			TUESDAY		
	Hi	Lo	Wx	Hi	Lo	Wx
Albany, NY	79	61	pc	76	56	th
Albuquerque, NM	88	56	su	90	57	su
Amarillo, TX	90	58	su	92	61	su
Anchorage, AK	55	42	mc	54	42	r
Atlanta, GA	79	62	th	78	63	th
Atlantic City, NJ	74	63	mc	78	64	th
Austin, TX	86	67	pc	86	67	pc
Baltimore, MD	78	63	th	83	64	th
Billings, MT	61	43	mc	62	45	r
Birmingham, AL	78	64	th	80	65	th
Bismarck, ND	65	41	pc	68	41	mc
Boise, ID	72	50	mc	68	48	th
Boston, MA	70	56	pc	71	61	th
Buffalo, NY	79	62	pc	69	52	th
Casper, WY	65	41	mc	72	43	mc
Charlotte, NC	83	63	mc	81	63	mc
Charleston, SC	84	63	pc	85	65	pc
Charleston, WV	81	62	th	81	62	th
Chattanooga, TN	80	65	th	80	65	th
Cheyenne, WY	63	43	mc	70	48	pc
Chicago, IL	77	58	mc	70	54	th
Cincinnati, OH	80	62	th	81	61	th
Cleveland, OH	80	65	pc	74	56	th
Columbia, SC	86	63	mc	86	65	pc
Columbus, GA	86	64	mc	84	67	mc
Columbus, OH	79	64	th	79	62	th
Dallas, TX	86	68	pc	86	70	pc
Daytona Beach, FL	84	67	pc	84	65	pc
Des Moines, IA	75	56	th	74	60	th
Detroit, MI	78	63	pc	74	54	th
Duluth, MN	54	39	r	67	44	pc
El Paso, TX	92	63	su	94	65	su
Evansville, IN	82	64	mc	82	66	mc
Fairbanks, AK	67	47	pc	62	44	mc
Fargo, ND	65	43	mc	67	47	pc
Flagstaff, AZ	72	41	pc	74	40	su
Flint, MI	79	61	pc	70	50	th
Fresno, CA	84	53	su	79	53	su
Goodland, KS	76	52	pc	77	54	pc
Great Falls, MT	59	38	mc	59	40	r
Green Bay, WI	70	49	th	68	48	pc
Hartford, CT	79	58	pc	75	59	th
Helena, MT	67	42	mc	70	43	mc
Honolulu, HI	84	69	su	85	71	th
Houston, TX	84	69	pc	84	68	th
Indianapolis, IN	79	64	pc	80	63	th
Jacksonville, FL	84	63	pc	84	64	su

Sunday's extremes nationwide: 103 at
For more information: National Weather

Today around the WORLD

City	Hi	Lo	Wx	City
Amsterdam	66	46	su	Dublin
Athens	70	59	pc	Frankfurt
Auckland	63	46	su	Geneva
Baghdad	88	72	su	Hanoi
Bangkok	93	82	sh	Harare
Barbados	86	75	r	Havana

CATHOLICS: Ban on Communion won't be enforced

FROM PAGE 1

some parts of the letter but did not openly criticize Sheridan's position.

"Yesterday at services, a man came to me and said, 'Tell the bishop to stay out of politics,'" Dunn said during his sermon. "And I said, 'No, I won't.'"

Many parishioners were less restrained.

"My own faith and beliefs are my own personal business and might not be reflected on a ballot card," said Brigid Mullen, a 20-year-old college student who attended Mass with her parents and sister Sunday.

"Just because you support a politician doesn't mean you are supporting everything they support. I think that's ridiculous," said Mullen, who said she recently worked on President Bush's re-election campaign.

Her mother, Amy Mayo-Mullen, 45, did not dispute the bishop's stance but said she is not in total agreement with it.

"I think it's in God's hands and on each person's conscience whether or not he's taking Communion," Mayo-Mullen said. "We support stem-cell research because our daughter, Brooks, is diabetic. In the case of rape or incest, I was raised to believe that abortion is a personal choice."

Sheridan's letter says, "Any Catholics who vote for candidates who stand for abortion, illicit stem-cell research or euthanasia suffer the same fateful consequences. It is for this reason that these Catholics,

Colorado Springs, the second-largest in the state, with about 125,000 members in 10 counties.

Peter Howard, a spokesman for the diocese, said no attempt will be made to ban Communion for parishioners who do not heed the bishop's letter.

"It's a decision between them and their God, and there will be consequences later," Howard said.

Most of the parishioners at St. Mary's on Sunday morning who were willing to talk to a reporter about the letter supported the bishop.

"I'm a Republican, so I'm OK with it," said Marilyn Legleiter, 67, who has attended St. Mary's for more than 30 years. "And I'm a pretty staunch Catholic."

Legleiter wonders, however, about the impact of the statement without enforcement.

"It's like telling your kids, 'If you do that one more time, I'm going to spank you,'" she said. "If you don't spank them, then they might just keep doing it."

Although Dunn spoke of the struggle of what it means "to be a Catholic in 2004" and not "keeping our beliefs hidden in a bushel basket," he did not advise anyone not to take Communion.

Tim Raskob, a 41-year-old husband and father of two, said he admires the bishop for taking such a stance but is grappling with the implications of the letter.

"It's not a simple question," Raskob said. He said he is not a "stereotypical party person" when it comes to voting and

POLICY: For 'low-level' problems

FROM PAGE 1

Monument boy, Christopher Paul, shot his grandmother in the head, killing her, to avoid the prospect of having to take her to Lewis-Palmer High School for the day.

Paul had been suspended from school and was told he would have to bring his grandma, 74-year-old Jaqueline Jean Paul, to school with him, according to police.

"The defendant admitted that he decided to shoot the victim and did so to avoid the embarrassment of having the victim in class with him," according to Paul's arrest affidavit.

The state law didn't cause Paul's death. The homicide did raise questions about the implementation and effectiveness of the law.

Large school districts in the Colorado Springs area — including Harrison District 2, Colorado Springs District 11, Cheyenne Mountain District 12, Academy District 20, and Lewis-Palmer District 38 — provided statistics on how many times students and parents have chosen that option over suspension.

All the districts contacted provided their policies, which mirror the state law.

School officials said the alternative can be used only for "low-level" discipline problems that result in suspension. Anyone getting expelled or suspended for bringing a weapon to school or committing violence would not be offered the alternative.

Most school officials said there are three reasons why the alternative to suspension would not be chosen.

First, parents often work full-time jobs and can't take the time off. Second, many parents think the student's actions get him

"What happens is the kids have a tendency to complain and make the parent feel guilty."

JAKE GARCIA — D-11's director of student discipline services

2 at the middle school level and 14 times at high schools, school officials said.

"What happens is the kids have a tendency to complain and make the parent feel guilty," said Jake Garcia, D-11's director of student discipline services. "There's extreme peer pressure imposed on" the student.

Garcia thinks it's "an excellent alternative" and is disappointed more parents aren't "strong" enough to follow through.

"If parents would only realize they should push the issue and force themselves to attend with their child, that child

student chose the option in recent years, none at the high school had, he said.

In District 2, Coordinator of Student Services Russ Coomes said that kind of information is not forwarded to the administration, so he had no numbers to provide. In District 38, Executive Director of Community and Administrative Services Ted Belteau said the schools don't report that information to the administration, so he couldn't say how many times the option had been used.

Sierra High School Vice Principal Judith Smith said the alternative is a good way

sure, that helps explain why teenagers are especially opposed to the suspension alternative.

"It's so humiliating, it could be more detrimental than helpful," said Straus-Witty. "Younger children, like elementary level, would be less embarrassed."

"But the older they are, the more embarrassed they would be."

Several Palmer High School students weighed in on the issue.

"I probably would do it," said Kelley Potenziani, 14. "But I would hate that my mom would be getting all up in my business."

Some students said they occasionally have seen parents in class — but not often.

In one instance, the mom left after two classes.

MASSACHUSETTS

GAY MARRIAGE: Atmosphere of anticipation, celebration

FROM PAGE 1

"I'm shaking so much," Hams said as she filled out the application while sitting at a table across from a city official. "I could collapse at this point."

Outside, throughout the day and into the night, the atmosphere was festive — complete with a giant wedding cake — as officials in the liberal bastion of Cambridge seized the earliest possible moment to begin the process of granting same-sex couples the historic right at the center of legal battles nationwide.

The state's highest court

had ruled gays and lesbians must be allowed to marry beginning today, and some of the couples in line planned to head to the courts as soon as they opened later this morning to seek waivers allowing them to wed before the usual three-day waiting period.

Massachusetts was thrust into the center of a nationwide debate on gay marriage when the state's Supreme Judicial Court issued its narrow 4-3 ruling in November that gays and lesbians had a right under the state constitution to wed.

In the days leading up to today's deadline for same-sex weddings to begin, opponents

looked to the federal courts for help in overturning the Supreme Judicial Court's ruling. Friday, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to intervene.

The SJC's ruling galvanized opponents of gay marriage in Massachusetts, prompting lawmakers in this heavily Democratic, Roman Catholic state to adopt a state constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriage but legalize Vermont-style civil unions. The earliest it could wind up on the ballot is 2006 — possibly casting a shadow on the legality of perhaps thousands of gay marriages that take place in the intervening years.

Older gay couples face more hurdles over lack of benefits

USA TODAY

They don't usually march in gay pride parades, participate in protests or hang rainbow flags from their front porches. Many of them lead quiet, closeted lives. But gay senior citizens are at the center of the fractious debate about same-sex marriage in the USA.

Older gay couples face a much greater risk of spending the end of their lives in poverty because they're ineligible for a host of federal protections, from Social Security survivor benefits to estate tax exemptions, gay rights advocates say. Couples who have lived together for decades might be barred from sharing a room in a nursing home or an assisted living facility. Many gay seniors fear they'll lose their homes if their partner needs government-subsidized long-term care.

Human Rights Campaign, a gay rights group, estimates more than 23 percent of same-sex couples include a partner 55 or older, and 12 percent include one who is 65 or older. Their ranks are expected to balloon when 77 million baby boomers — including millions who are in long-term gay relationships — reach retirement age.

Opponents of gay marriage say couples can protect their interests through joint-ownership agreements, health care proxies and other legal contracts. More broadly, they argue that marriage shouldn't be defined in terms of the financial benefits it provides.

"We feel that same-sex couples are entitled to the same

rights as heterosexual couples," said Ray McNulty, spokesman for the Coalition for Marriage. "However, they do not have a right to overturn and redefine marriage as it has been known for generations in this country."

Same-sex marriage supporters counter that it's impossible to replicate with contracts the protections marriage provides, which become increasingly important as couples get older. Even civil unions, which have been available in Vermont for four years, "don't trigger any of the over 1,000 federal benefits and protections a marriage license triggers," said Cheryl Jacques, president of Human Rights Campaign.

Benefits important to older gay couples:

- Social Security survivor benefits. If one member of a married couple dies, the surviving spouse can choose to retain his or her own benefits or accept the spouse's, whichever is higher. The benefits provide financial security for survivors who stayed home or earned a lower income than their spouse.

Same-sex couples are ineligible for survivor benefits. The HRC said the lack of survivor benefits for senior gay couples results in an average loss of \$5,528 a year.

- Taxes. Married people can inherit unlimited assets from their spouses without triggering federal estate taxes. That's not the case for gay couples. If one partner dies, the other could pay estate taxes, even on a home that was jointly owned, the HRC said. Estates worth less than \$1.5 mil-

lion are exempt from federal estate tax in 2004. Estates that exceed that amount are subject to a tax rate of as much as 48 percent.

That's not the only tax bomb gay couples face. When a married 401(k) owner dies, the spouse can roll the money into his or her own retirement plan, deferring tax until the money is withdrawn. Gay beneficiaries usually are required to take the money as a lump sum and pay income tax on the entire amount, which can push them into a higher tax bracket, the HRC said.

- Health care. Nursing-home care takes a financial and emotional toll on many older couples, but the consequences for gay couples are particularly severe, said Amy Hunt, director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Aging Project of Massachusetts.

When a member of a married couple goes into a nursing home, the government requires the couple to "spend down" most of their assets before the individual is eligible for Medicaid, a federal program administered by the states. The formula allows the healthy spouse to keep enough money for living expenses. In addition, the home isn't counted as an asset, allowing the healthy spouse to remain in the home.

That protection doesn't extend to gay couples, Hunt says.

Some couples have been forced to give up their homes so one partner can qualify for Medicaid coverage, gay advocates say.